

Message Text

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ORIGIN ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 PM-05 SAS-02 /046 R

DRAFTED BY ACDA/PA:JMPOPE:CF

APPROVED BY ACDA/PA:TAHALSTED

-----009150 292132Z /13

P 291917Z AUG 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS PRIORITY

USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY

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USSALTTWO/CTB

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT:AUGUST 29 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL
INTEREST

LONDON FOR AMB/EX, SOFIA FOR AMBASSADOR

1. IN DISPATCH FROM LONDON, TAKASHI OKA OF CHRISTIAN
SCIENCE MONITOR REPORTED ON GROWING CONCERN IN WESTERN
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EUROPE OVER SOVIET SS-20 MOBILE MISSILE, HE SAID NATO
OFFICIALS ARE CONCERNED, FIRST, THAT NATO HAS NO EXACT
EQUIVALENT OF SS-20, AND SECOND, THAT USSR CONTINUES TO
DEPLOY MORE AND MORE SS-20S, AS WELL AS BACKFIRE BOMBERS.
"AMONG SOME EUROPEAN DEFENSE THINKERS THERE IS FEELING
THAT ONCE SALT ACHIEVES STRATEGIC NUCLEAR BALANCE BETWEEN
U.S. AND SOVIET UNION, OTHER LEGS OF OVERALL DEFENSE

TRIAD -- REGIONAL 'UCLEAR BALANCE AND BALANCE IN CONVENTIONAL ARMS -- BECOME MORE IMPORTANT.... SOVIET UNION GENERALLY IS CONCEDED TO BE OVERWHELMINGLY SUPERIOR IN TERMS OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS BALANCE. IF IT ALSO GAINS SUPERIORITY IN TERMS OF EUROPEAN NUCLEAR BALANCE, WHILE MAINTAINING EQUALITY IN STRATEGIC NUCLEAR SYSTEMS THROUGH SALT, THERE COULD BE DANGEROUS OVERALL IMBALANCE BETWEEN SOVIET STRENGTH AND THAT OF NATO."

2. MICHAEL BURNS OF BALTIMORE SUN, REPORTING FROM BONN, SAID WEST GERMAN DEFENSE MINISTER HANS APEL HAS WARNED U.S. THAT SALT AGREEMENT ON NUCLEAR WARHEAD PARITY WOULD LEAVE EUROPE FACED WITH AN OVERWHELMING SOVIET POTENTIAL IN 'GRAY AREA WEAPONS." ADDRESSING SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY POLICY MEETING IN LAST WEEKEND, APEL SAID STRATEGIC PARITY, WITHOUT REQUIRING LIMITATIONS IN EUROPEAN THEATER WEAPONS, WOULD CONFRONT EUROPE WITH WARSAW PACT'S "GREAT SUPERIORITY" IN CONVENTIONAL ARMAMENTS IN CENTRAL EUROPE AND AN ADVANTAGE IN INTERMEDIATE RANGE WEAPONS SUCH AS BACKFIRE AND SS-20. APEL SAID STRATEGIC STABILITY MUST BE ESTABLISHED AND MAINTAINED FOR EUROPE AS WELL AS FOR HOMELANDS OF TWO SUPERPOWERS. BURNS POINTED OUT "BONN GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN THAT SALT TWO AGREEMENT COULD DAMAGE RATHER THAN HELP EUROPEAN SECURITY REQUIREMENTS HAS BEEN VOICED IN NATO COUNCILS AND IN BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS. BUT THIS IS FIRST TIME THAT CABINET MINISTER PUT IT AS BLUNTLY UNCLASSIFIED

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AS MR. APEL DID. SPEECH WAS SAID TO BE AIMED AT WASHINGTON, WHICH IS WORKING TOWARD SECURING AS IMMINENT SALT TWO AGREEMENT."

3. CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR REPORTED THAT U.S. AIR FORCE HAS SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF FACILITIES REQUIRED FOR PROPOSED MX MOBILE MISSILE. AIR FORCE SAYS MX SYSTEM WOULD TAKE UP 6,500 SQUARE MILES OF LAND IN WEST AND CENTRAL PLAINS AREAS. LATEST HEARING ARE SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 30 AT LOMPOC, CALIFORNIA.

4. DUSKO DODER REPORTED THAT USSR, IN STATEMENT ISSUED BY POLITBURO, CAUTIONED WEST AGAINST SUPPLYING WEAPONS TO CHINA, CLEARLY SUGGESTING THAT SUCH MOVE WOULD ELIMINATE CHANCES FOR NEW SALT AGREEMENT. DODER SAID "STATEMENT OF THIS KIND FROM POLITBURO IS RARE AND GENERALLY CORRESPONDENT, REPORTING FROM MOSCOW, SAID "THERE ARE NO INDICATIONS THAT U.S. IS AT THIS STAGE PREPARED TO SUPPLY ARMS TO PEKING BUT INDICATIONS THAT CHINA MAY ACQUIRE MORE WESTERN MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY HAVE FUELED MOSCOW'S WORST FEAR, THAT IS, HAVING HOSTILE AND POWERFUL FORCES WITH LINKS TO EACH OTHER ON BOTH FLANKS."

5. SENATOR SAM NUNN TERMED PRESIDENT CARTER'S RECENT VETO OF WEAPONS PROCURE BILL MISTAKE THAT HAS STIRRED BITTERNESS IN CONGRESS. IN SPECIAL TO WASHINGTON STAR, BERNARD WEINRAUB SAID NUNN ASSERTED THAT ADMINISTRATION TACTICS BEFORE VETO HAD BEEN INEFFECTIVE, CONFUSING AND "PRETTY MISLEADING." NUNN SAID THERE WAS "NO TYPE OF CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION" WITH SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE. NUNN SAID DECISION TO DELAY PRODUCTION OF NEUTRON BOMB HAD SET BACK MODERNIZATION OF TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN

EUROPE BY AT LEAST 12 MONTHS, AND HAD LEFT EUROPEAN ALLIES "JUSTIFIABLY PERPLEXED."

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6. UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL REPORTED THAT NUCLEAR WAR-HEAD WILL BE EXPLODED 2,233 FEET BENEATH DESERT AT NEVADA TEST SITE THURSDAY, SEVENTH ANNOUNCED U.S. NUCLEAR TEST EXPLOSION THIS YEAR. BLAST, CODENAMED "PANIR," WILL BE 317TH UNDERGROUND BLAST AT SITE SINCE 1963 TREATY BANNING ATMOSPHERIC TESTING. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY ANNOUNCEMENT SAID EXPLOSION'S POWER WILL BE IN RANGE OF 20 TO 150 KILOTONS, WHICH UPI NOTED WAS "DELIBERATELY VAGUE RANGE WHICH COVERS VIRTUALLY ALL NUCLEAR TEST EXPLOSIONS AND DOES NOT REVEAL SIZE OF BOMB." CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PRESS SUMMARIES, SALT (ARMS CONTROL), ARMS CONTROL MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE219310
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JPMPOPE:CF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780353-0073
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780812/aaaaajsh.tel
Line Count: 146
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 53c9f759-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN ACDA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1585856
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AUGUST 29 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL INTEREST LONDON FOR AMB/EX, SOFIA FOR AMBASSADOR
TAGS: PARM, SOPN, US, UR
To: GENEVA USSALTTWO MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/53c9f759-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014